

234

MEDICAL CASES AND REMARKS.

PART I.

ON THE GOOD EFFECTS

Salivation

IN

JAUNDICE ARISING FROM CALCULI.

PART II.

ON THE FREE USE OF

Nitre

IN HÆMORRHAGY.

BY

THOMAS GIBBONS, M. D.



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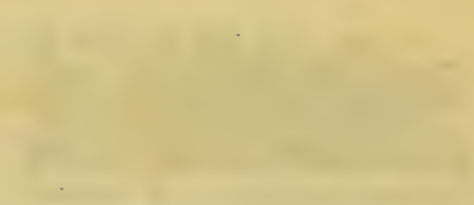
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P R E F A C E.

THE Medical Commentaries have, with great reputation to the editor, gone through two decades. Since which, a new work, under the title of the Annals of Medicine, has been published. In the first volume of which, twelve cases of biliary obstructions from calculi, successfully treated by salivation, are inserted. Since that time, the

a author

author has been favoured with some communications on the subject, from his medical correspondents, which further confirm the usefulness of the practice: he therefore presents this small volume to the notice of the gentlemen of the faculty, wishing the trials made, may prove as successful to them, as they have been to their humble servant

T. GIBBONS.

Hadleigh in Suffolk.

In addition to these cases some medical observations are given, and instances related, where violent hæmorrhages from the lungs, stomach, and uterus, have been, almost immediately, restrained by large doses of nitre.

Biliary obstructions from gall stones are not only excruciatingly painful when a calculus has got so far into the duct as to prevent the bile from passing into the intestine, but, what are the melancholy effects? Not often inflammation indeed, but frequently

ly

ly indurations of the liver, fchirri, and their fucceffors dropfies, and generally of that fort which is the moft fatal, afcites.

Hippocrates, the founder of phyfic, lamented, though he lived to the age of an hundred years, that the art was long, life was fhort! See his firft aphorifm.

Before I quitted praftice I had reafon to make the fame complaint. There is always fomething for an attentive obferver to learn. When I firft went into the praftice of phyfic,
many

many years ago, the disorders of the time were then almost all of the inflammatory kind. Fevers gave way to bleeding and cooling remedies; and a favourable crisis generally took place about the seventh day. In those cases which proved fatal, a delirium came on about the seventh, and death closed the scene on the tenth or eleventh day. I have not seen a fever of this sort for more than thirty years. The fevers of the present day are, I mean

mean idiopathic fevers, almost all of the nervous remittent kind, tending to putrid. What is the cause of this? We now and then meet with an old stager in the farming way, (and who breathe better air than the farmers?) whose breakfast is bread and cheese, moistened with his own home brewed beer; his dinner pudding and pork, and, who drinks neither tea nor port wine, yet this man, though his exercise be sufficient to procure a good digestion,

digestion, is not free from the epidemic of the season. May we not then, reasonably suppose that these changes are owing to some occult cause in the air? If so, or from whatever cause they may arise, the physician has daily to learn: therefore, were I now in practice I should not change the motto prefixed to my graduation thesis—*De Mulierum Mammis, et Morbis quibus obnoxia sunt.*

MISERIS SUCCURRERE DISCO.

PART I.



ON THE
GOOD EFFECTS OF SALIVATION
IN
JAUNDICE
ARISING FROM CALCULI.



IT has been acknowledged by the medical faculty, that there is nothing more difficult to account for than the *modus operandi* of remedies; and this may be observed both in their simple and compound forms. Why does *ippecacuanha* act upon the stomach, and *jallap* run to the bowels? What is the reason that large doses of
crude

crude mercury may be taken with impunity? and why so small a quantity, when joined with marine acid, prove so deleterious? On the other hand, why is the vitriolic acid so pernicious by itself, and why so mild when united to alkaline salt, or joined with inflammable matter? More questions concerning stimulants in the first passages might be asked; but let these suffice. When medicines have entered the system, whether by the lacteals or lymphatics, we are equally at a loss to account for their action there. Why does calomel or mercurial ointment affect the salivary in preference to any other glands? Why does ferrum vitriolatum stimu-

late

late the uterus, and kali acetatum the kidneys? The answering of these questions I shall leave to those gentlemen who may think themselves more equal to it than I find myself.

Anatomy is now so well known to every medical man of any reputation, that I think a description of the biliary organs needless; but should it so happen, that a reader has not had an opportunity of attending to such subjects, the reading of my worthy friend Dr. Thomas Coe's Treatise on Biliary Concretions, may be of use to him.

I have no *nostrum* to vend, nor do I publish the following cases to make myself known; for on account of ill health I have declined practice. My
only

only motive is, because I think they will be of use to mankind. Calomel has in biliary obstructions frequently been given as a deobstruent; but I do not recollect, that intended salivation for the removal of biliary calculi has ever been recommended. I know that in the East Indies it is a common practice, for inflammations of the liver, after bleeding, to salivate as quickly as possible; but this is foreign to my purpose. I shall therefore proceed to a relation of such cases as I have treated successfully.

CASE

CASE I.

Mrs. Ward, a widow lady of this town, aged about seventy years, of a corpulent habit, sent for me in May 1776. Her skin and urine were very yellow, her stools of a clay colour. She complained of acute pain from the pit of her stomach to her back, with frequent vomitings: her legs were much swelled, and pitted. I ordered her some pills of calomel, soap, rhubarb, and aloes, with anodynes occasionally. I confess I did not order these medicines with an intention of salivating her, but as deobstruents. She had not, however, taken them many days before a spitting

ting came on; and I observed, before she had spit six days, which she did to about the quantity of a pint in a day, that her jaundice gradually decreased, and the swelling of her legs went off; and she was, after spitting about fourteen days, perfectly free from her disorder, but her spitting continued so troublesome, that it was necessary to check it, by frequently giving her lac sulph^{ur}is and nitre. She lived to the age of eighty, and never had any return of her jaundice. Her stools were examined, but no calculi found.

CASE

CASE II.

Mrs. Nelson, an apothecary's widow at Manningtree in Essex, sent for me about the latter end of the year 1778. She was seventy years of age; very corpulent, and her legs œdematous. Her skin and urine were highly tinged with bile; but no bile was found in her stools. She had been affected with very acute pains in the biliary duct, which were now abated, but the obstruction still remained. She had been taking pills of soap, aloes, and rhubarb, with saline medicines, by Mr. Nunn's direction. I ordered that these should be repeated, and that she should take five grains

c

of

of calomel morning and evening. These she took till a spitting came on, which was kept up by continuing the calomel, to the quantity of a pint and a half daily for a fortnight; at the end of which time she was perfectly cured. Her stools were examined, but no calculi found. She died at the age of eighty-two, without any return of her disorder.

CASE III.

Mrs. Reeve, wife of Mr. Abraham Reeve, merchant, in Hadleigh, Suffolk, a lady of a delicate habit, between twenty and thirty years of age, sent for me in November 1779. She complained of pain at the pit of her stomach:

stomach: her skin and urine were both yellow; and there was a deficiency of bile in the fœces. I was in hopes that calomel in small doses might open the duct, without salivating her. She took as under.

R. Calomel, gr. i.

Pulv. Rhab. gr. iii.

Sapon. Venet. ʒss.

Elix. aloes. q. s. ft. bolus mane
et vespere sumendus; super-
bibendo misturæ sequentis,
ʒij.

R. Sal. Absynth. ʒiv.

Succ. limon. ʒij. Peracta effervescencia, adde

Aq. font. ʒv.

Sp. cinnam. ʒi.

Syr.

Syr. croci, 3fs.

Vini. antim. g^{ss}. lxxx. M.

Although the dose of the calomel was so small, she had not taken it a week before a ptyalism came on, which, in a few days, opened the duct, and her jaundice went off entirely; a few doses of manna and Glauber's salts stopped the spitting, and removed all her complaints. It is now eighteen years ago, and she has had no return. Gall-stones were sought for, but none found.

CASE

CASE IV.

In June 1780, I was sent for to Mr. Joseph Clark, a gentleman-farmer at Semer in Suffolk, aged seventy years. His skin and urine were very yellow; his stools white; and from the pain at the pit of his stomach, there was no doubt of his having biliary calculi. After an emetic, I ordered him the following medicines:

R. Calom. gr. i.

Pulv. rad. Rhab. gr. iii.

Sapon. Venet. gr. v.

Syr. simp. q. s. f. bolus omni
nocte et mane sumendus, su-
perbibendo mist. salin. ℥ii.

In about a week a ptyalism came
on,

on, which was kept up by the continuance of his medicines, so that he spit about a pint and a quarter daily for two or three weeks. He was perfectly cured, and never had any return of his disorder. He died aged eighty. No gall-stones were found.

CASE V.

On the 22d. of March 1781, I was sent for to Mrs. French, a widow-lady of this town, (Hadleigh in Suffolk) about sixty years of age. She complained of acute pain, at times, in the biliary duct: her skin and urine were very yellow. After an emetic, I ordered her the following medicines:

R.

℞. Calom.

Aloës focet. ā. ā. gr. ij.

Sap. Venet. gr. viij.

Syr. simp. q. s. ft. bolus mane
et vespere fumendus cum
dosi misturæ salinæ.

She continued the medicines for about three weeks without salivation, or removal of the obstruction. She now became feverish: and I thought it better to omit the calomel, and give her some cooling medicines. She got rid of her fever; and on the 21st. of May following, returned to the calomel, &c. but took only one grain for a dose; which she continued for some time, without any abatement of her disorder. I then discontinued
the

the calomel, keeping her bowels open with aloes, rhubarb, and tartar-emetical, to which was joined a little soap, giving her opiates occasionally. From this time to the end of the year 1782, she took opening medicines only, but of which, and all others, she grew tired. She was persuaded to try some nostrum; but her jaundice never left her. On the 8th. of October 1783, I was desired to visit her again: she then took the following medicine:

R. Calom. gr. i.

Aloes soc. gr. iij.

Conf. cynosb. gr. v. ft. bolus
omni nocte vel alterna sumendus, si alvus astricta sit.

She

She took these, not always regularly, and opiates, till March 18, 1784; during which time I saw her but seldom, Mr. Simpson, who is since dead, her apothecary, having the sole care of her. On the 18th. March 1784, I was desired to visit her again. Her complexion and her urine were now of a colour between black and yellow; her stools without bile. I now had a wish to try what the addition of a small quantity of opium, to prevent the calomel going off by the bowels, would do. I therefore ordered as follows:

R. Calom.

Aloes soc.

Philon. Lond. ā. gr. iv.

n

Syr.

Syr. simp, q. s. ft. bolus omni
nocte cum dosi misturæ sali-
næ fumendus

She continued in the use of these medicines for near a month before a ptyalism came on. She now, I believe, spit a pint in a day for near a month before any bile got into the duodenum; and even then it passed but in small quantity, and the colour of her skin was not altered. However, as the duct was not wholly obstructed, I prevailed upon her, supporting her with cordials between her medicines, to persevere: which happily she did for more than two months, spitting every twenty-four hours about a pint and a half. She then was perfectly
cured

cured, and has had no return of jaundice since. She is now more than seventy years of age. No gall-stones were found.

CASE VI.

Mrs. Game, in the neighbourhood of Needham-market, in the county of Suffolk, was, in September 1780, recommended to me by Mr. Abbot surgeon at Needham. She appeared to be about forty years of age; and had had a biliary obstruction for more than a year. Her skin was of a blackish yellow. I desired Mr. Abbot to try the effects of salivation from calomel: he did so; and I received a letter from him some time after, in which
 he

he said, "The bile then began to emulge." She lived some months afterwards. Mr. Abbot thought the substance of the liver was indurated; and indeed I thought so too; for she said she could, with her hand, feel her right-side very hard.

CASE VII.

Mrs. Elliot, a farmer's wife at Wal-
dingfield in Suffolk, sent for me on
the 3d. November 1784. Her age be-
tween thirty and forty years. She
had been afflicted with excruciating
pains in the biliary ducts, for which
her apothecary had given her lauda-
num frequently. When a gall-stone
got into the ductus biliaris commu-
nis,

nis, jaundice always followed; when it fell back into the gall-bladder, the yellowness went off; and so on alternately. I prescribed for her as follows:

R. Calom. ppt. gr. i.

Aloes socot. gr. ii.

Sapon. Venet. gr. vi.

Syr. simp. q. s. ft. bolus omni
nocte maneque sumendus, su-
perbibendo mist. salin. ʒij.

A ptyalism came on in a few days; and about the 13th. of the same month, she voided a gall-stone which weighed ten grains. The spitting was kept up for about three weeks. She voided two more stones of the same size as the first, when she was perfectly cured.

These

These calculi, which together weighed about thirty grains, were the lightest of their size I ever saw, though I have several hundreds by me. The surfaces were smooth, and without the least appearance of erosion: from this it seems to appear, that the mercury did not act upon the calculi, but so relaxed the ducts as to facilitate the exit of the stones.

But let us now review the first five cases, where every patient was cured, and no gall-stones found in the fœces. May we not reasonably suppose, as none of those patients had any return of the disorder, that the mercury in those cases acted as a solvent?

CASE VIII.

In June 1784, I was desired to visit Mrs. Harwood of Brightlingsea in Essex. I saw her but once; and from the symptoms and nature of her jaundice, I supposed it to be in consequence of biliary calculi. I desired Mr. Inman, her surgeon, who lives at St. Osyth, to try the effects of salivation raised by calomel: he did so; and I had the pleasure of hearing from him a few months ago, that after spitting several weeks, she got perfectly well; and has had no return, though it is now fourteen years since.

CASE

CASE IX.

Mr. Canham of Bemont-Hall in Essex, a gentleman of about fifty years of age, consulted me, on the 7th. of April 1785, on account of a jaundice, which, preceded by pain, came on and went off several times; but now continued longer than usual. I ordered the following medicines:

R. Calomel. ppt. gr. i.

Rad. Rhabarb. pulv.

Philon. Lond. ā gr. v.

Syr. simp. q. s. ft. bolus mane
et vespere sumendus, cum
duabus unciis misturæ salinæ.

On the 24th. I was sent for to him. He was then spitting; which I desired,
by

by the continuance of his medicines, might be kept up for some weeks. It was so; and his jaundice left him. No calculi were found. On the 10th. of February 1787, his jaundice returned; and the same medicines were again resorted to. I forgot whether he was salivated or not the second time; I therefore wrote to Mr. Vesey, a surgeon at Thorpe in Essex, to know what he recollected of Mr. Canham's case. His answer is as follows:

Dear Sir,

Agreeable to your request, I have inspected my books, and find Mr. Canham was put upon a mercurial course on the 7th. of April 1785,
F.
and

and kept in a gentle salivation to the 23d. of June following, till the jaundice entirely disappeared.

On the 10th. of February 1787, upon the jaundice making its appearance again, he then was put upon the same mercurial course, which he took for ten days, which carried off the jaundice; but to the best of my recollection, it did not bring on salivation, only slightly affected his mouth. He never had any further appearance of the jaundice; nor were there any calculi found.

I am,

Sir,

Your most humble servant,

Wm. Vesey.

Thorpe, 4th. Sep. 1795.

CASE

CASE X.

In August 1785, I was desired to visit Mrs. Bennet of Kerfy. She appeared to me to be about thirty years of age. I ordered her some pills, composed of calomel, soap, and rhubarb, which soon brought on a ptyalism, and her jaundice (for that was her disorder) was gradually going off, when Mr. Rose, her surgeon, since dead, not knowing my intention, gave her several doses of manna and Glauber's salts, till her spitting was considerably abated; and, as that diminished, her yellowness returned in proportion, and increased. I desired him to repeat the calomel, &c.
till

till the spitting returned, which he did for two or three weeks, when she was perfectly cured. From the symptoms, acute pain, &c. at times, there was no doubt that her jaundice arose from calculi. Whether her stools were or were not examined, I cannot tell. She has not had, now for thirteen years past, any return of the disorder.

CASE XI.

Mr. Golden, a tanner of this town, (Hadleigh) sent for me on the 5th. of July 1788. He had a jaundice, which, from the symptoms, there was no doubt arose from biliary calculi. He was about forty years of age, of a
very

very corpulent habit. I prescribed for him as follows :

℞. Calom. ppt. gr. i.

Pulv. Rad. rhab.

Philon. Lond. ā. gr. v.

Syr. simp. q. s. f. bolus mane et
vespere fumendus superbi-
bendo mist. salin. ℥ij.

About the 10th. of the same month, one grain more of the calomel was added to each bolus. On the 12th. his gums grew sore, and spitting came on plentifully ; which was continued till the 15th. when the duct was opened, and a large quantity of bile found in his stools. His jaundice went off soon, but his spitting was so great, to upwards of lbij. in a day, that I
thought

thought it necessary to check it, by giving him frequently, doses of lac sulph. and nitre. His stools were examined, but no gall-stones found. It is now ten years since, and he has had no return of jaundice.

CASE XII.

Mrs. Perkins, wife of a gentleman of the law at Manningtree in Essex, sent for me on the 9th. of December 1790. Mr. Rogers, her apothecary, said she was, in the beginning of her disorder, troubled with acute pains at the pit of her stomach; that yellowness followed, which, though the pain was sometimes abated, did not wholly go off. He had given her soap, rhubarb,

barb, aloes, &c. but the jaundice kept increasing. Her complexion was of a colour between black and yellow. I thought there was no time to be lost; I therefore prescribed for her as follows:

R. Vini ipecac. ʒi.

Antim. tart. gr. i. M. ft. haustus
statim cum regimine fumendus.

R. Rad. Rhabarb. pulv.

Conf. opiat. ā ʒfs.

Syr. simp. f. bolus post emet.
operationem fumendus.

And the following morning to begin with the boluses and mixture as under:

R.

R. Calom. ppt.

Pil. ex. aloe.

Conf. opiat. ā. gr. iii.

Syr. simp. q. s. f. bolus mane et
vespere fumendus cum mist.
salin. ℥ij.

As she was costive, I ordered the
following injection;

R. Decoct. pro enemate, ℥x.

Olei olivar.

Syr. bacc. spin. cerv. ā ℥ij.

Pil. ex aloe, ℥ij.

Sap. moll. ℥ss. M. statim tepide
injiciend.

The glyster procured very little dis-
charge of fœces; I therefore ordered
the following pills:

R.

R. Calom. ppt.

Pil. ex aloë, ā. gr. v.

Syr. facch. q. s. f. massa in pilu-
las duas dividenda, vespere
sumend. et; si alvus astricta
sit, mane repetend.

These did not open the bowels suffi-
ciently; therefore on the 13th, (when
I saw her again) I ordered the pills
to be repeated every four hours, with
three spoonfuls of the following mix-
ture, till a free passage should be pro-
cured.

R. Infus. fennæ, ℥v.

Tinct. fennæ, ʒv.

——jalapii, ʒiij.

Syr. rofar.

Kali. tart. ā. ʒij.

Mannæ, ʒfs. M.

Dec.

December 15. The medicines had procured a considerable discharge of fœces, but not tinged with bile. I therefore ordered for her as under :

R. Calom. ppt.

Ocul. cancr.

Conf. Ros. ā. gr. v.

Syr. simp. q. s. ft. massa in pilulas mediocres divid. statim.
fum. cum dosi mist. salin.

She complained of great weakness and languor; therefore the following cordial mixture was ordered :

R. Tinct. lavend. comp.

—— cast. ā. ʒiij.

Aq. distill. ʒv.

Syr. facch. ʒss M. cap. cochl. ij.
vel iij. larga, in languore.

Spitting

Spitting now came on; and her urine was not so loaded with bile as it had been: but a purging supervening, checked the spitting; and she grew more yellow. On the 18th. I ordered calom. gr. iij. joined with a few grains of conf. opiat. to prevent its running off by the bowels, to be taken twice in a day. I was now fearful that the substance of the liver was affected, as a round prominent tumour was to be felt in the region of the liver. But as her fever was not high, I ordered the calomel to be continued: and this day the spitting returned plentifully; and for about ten days, she spit every twenty-four hours not less than a pint and a half.

Her

Her skin and urine became every day of a better colour; and there was plenty of bile in her stools. The tumour, which was before prominent, now felt flaccid and knotty, not unlike, as Mr. Rogers, her surgeon, and a practitioner in midwifery, observed, a placenta. During the time the ducts were open, she voided an astonishing quantity of black fabulous matter in every stool; and which, when put upon a hot iron, burned like pitch, emitting a very offensive vapour. She continued spitting, and voiding this biliary sandy-like matter, till about the 17th. of January 1791; the liver gradually decreasing, and now nearly of its natural size. There is great reason
to

to suppose, from the knotty state of the liver after the bile had got a free passage, and the tumour lessened, that not only the ductus cysticus, and ductus hepaticus, but that the pori biliarii were likewise obstructed; for I do not think it possible for a human gall-bladder to contain a fourth part of the calculi, she voided, not much larger than sand. Did the mercury in this case diminish the size of the calculi? The lady had resolution enough to persevere in the use of her medicines and spitting to the end of the month, or some time longer; and happily got rid of her disorder. There was one stone voided, the last that passed, about the size of a pea.

CASE

CASE XIII.

Mrs. Phillebrown, mother to Mrs. Marratt, a banker's lady at Manningtree, sent for me in April 1787. But as my attendance was not a regular one, I wrote to Mrs. Marratt for information, in the following terms; and I received the annexed answer.

Madam,

About eight years ago, I was desired to visit your mother, who had then a jaundice, arising, I suppose, from gall-stones. If I recollect right, Mr. Rogers, her apothecary, said she had had several fits of it before I saw her; that after acute pain, yellowness

yellowness followed; further, when she was free from pain, the yellowness abated. I well remember that I wished her to be salivated, and prescribed medicines for that purpose. But as my attendance was not a constant one, I could not be so exact in observing the progress, as otherwise I should have been. I have thoughts of publishing upon this disorder; therefore shall be much obliged to you to inform me of what you recollect of her case. The following questions will perhaps assist you. How often, before I saw her, had she returns of her disorder? After spitting came on, how long did it continue? After the spitting went off,

off, had she ever any return of jaundice? If her stools were examined, were there any gall-stones found? What did she die of, and at what age? An answer, when convenient, will much oblige,

Madam,

Your obedient servant,

Hadleigh,

Thomas Gibbons.

6th. April, 1795.

Answered.—*Dedham, April 11, 1795.*

Sir,

In answer to your letter respecting my dear mother, I can say, I very well remember your prescribing the medicines for her, (at a time there was but little hopes of her recovery)

which

which caused her a very sore mouth, and a salivation. She had always been subject to a jaundice and bilious complaint. I must say, I think those medicines lengthened her life the remaining years, as she never had any return of the jaundice; but looked upon herself worn out, the last year or two, being seventy-six years of age. We would many times have wished to have had Dr. Gibbons to her; but as she had no particular disorder to point out, we could not persuade her to it. In answer to the questions you have given me: 1st. She had always been disordered with a bilious habit and jaundice. 2dly. I think her spitting continued three

or four weeks. 3dly. It certainly recovered her, as I do not remember she ever had any return of the jaundice. 4thly. No gall-stones were found; what came from her was not regularly examined. 5thly. At the age of seventy-six, she had an easy passage out of this world. I believe she always thought highly of the medicines; and had she had any return, you certainly would have been sent for.

I am, &c.

G. Marratt.

In

In only one case have I tried the effects of calomel in an inflammation of the liver. Some years ago I was desired to visit Mr. Griggs, a linen-draper in Hadleigh, aged about forty-five years; whose liver was so much enlarged, that a tumour of the right-side might be seen. He had a considerable degree of fever; was very yellow; his stools deficient of, but not without bile. I ordered him calomel, which he took for several weeks; but no spitting followed. The calomel was omitted; but his disease at last proved fatal. Does not inflammation prevent the mercury affecting the salivary glands?

The

The two following cases were communicated to me by Mr. Travis, an ingenious surgeon at East Bergholt, in this county; they are strikingly corroborative of the facts related in the preceding pages, and of the inferences which those facts are calculated to suggest.—

Mrs. Abbot, aged fifty, of a scrofulous habit, and subject to biliary complaints, has now, July 30, 1796, a total obstruction of the flow of bile into the intestinal canal, and the colour of her skin is of a dark yellow approaching toward black; she complains of violent pain in the region of the liver, attended with almost continued

tinued vomiting. Pulse very quick, and heat excessive. Urine very high coloured, and so diminished in quantity as not to exceed half a wine glass in twenty-four hours; fœces nearly black, and resembling in their texture coagulated blood; tongue foul; thirst urgent; no rest; appetite so greatly impaired that she has not for some time taken more than a single boiled turnip daily.

Ordered to take an emetic immediately, and, after its operation, an opening draught was given, and the bolus as below at night.

R. Calom. gr. iv.

Opii. gr. i. cum conserva cynosb.

fiat bolus hora somni sumendus.

On .

On the 31st. of July she took four ounces of cathartic mixture, and on the 1st. of August commenced the following pills :

R. Calom. gr. vj.

Pulv. rhæi

Sal. polychrest. et

Saponis albi āā. ʒj.

Olei junip. g^{tt}. xxxij. cum syrupo
fiant pil. xxxij. e quibus sumat
iij. bis in die cum haustu sto-
mach. amaro.

These, with an occasional cathartic, and the intervention of an emetic, were continued until the eighth of August, on which day the pills below were prescribed.

R.

R. Calom. gr. xij.

Pulv. scillæ gr. xv.

Aloes foccotor. ʒj.

Saponis ʒiss.

Olei junip. g^{tt}. xxxx. cum syrupo
fiant pilulæ xxxvj. e quibus
sumat iij. bis in die cum hauf-
tu diuretico amaro

A gentle ptyalism was now pro-
duced, relieved her greatly, and was
continued until the 14th. of August,
when the pills being omitted, the
spitting went off, and her symptoms
returned; on the 24th. therefore, the
calomel was again had recourse to.

R. Calomel. gr. iv.

Opii purific. gr. ij. cum confer-
va fiant boli ij. horâ somni
sumendi.

R.

R. Kali pp. ʒj. .

Infusi gentianæ comp. purg. 3x.

Tincturæ cardamomi comp. ʒj.

fiat haustus 4tis. horis cum

succo limonis in actu effer-

vescentiæ sumendus.

The bolus and draught were continued until the 28th. of August, and then altered as follows :

R. Extracti colocynth. comp. ʒj.

Calomel. gr. xij. cum syrupo

fiant boli xij. et sumat j. bis

in die.

She persisted in this manner, under a continued moderate salivation, until the 6th. of September, when, every morbid symptom having disappeared, the medicines were omitted, and she
has

has since remained free from any biliary complaint.

April 9th. 1796, Mrs. Heffill, aged fifty-five, has a total deficiency of bile in her fœces, which are of a clay colour; the pain in the region of the liver is very acute, and occasions most distressing sickness and vomitings. Skin of a deep and bright yellow. Pulse quick and hard. Thirst great; urine loaded with bile. Was ordered to be bled, and to take an emetic, and these, with some aperient stomachic medicines, removed the complaint, and she continued well until the 23d. of April, on which day the jaundice with an augmentation of

H

every

every symptom returning, and with the additional one of violent pain on one side of her face, the following pills were prescribed :

℞. Salis polychrest. et

Pulveris rhæi āā. ʒij.

Saponis ʒj.

Calomel. gr. vj.

Olei junip. g^{tt}. xxxvj. cum fyrupo fiant pilulæ xxxvj. e quibus sumat iij. bis in die superbibendo cyathum misturæ cardiacæ

She had taken only eighteen of these pills, and consequently but three grains of calomel, when a hot tile was applied by her friends to relieve the pained side of her face, and which in

a few hours occasioned a swelling of the salivary glands of that side, and a ptyalism ensuing from the parts thus affected, was supported for a fortnight, and compleatly restored her to health.





PART II.



ON THE
FREE USE OF NITRE
IN
HÆMORRHAGY.

I SHALL now proceed to give a relation of some cases of hæmorrhage, which were, either restrained, or stopped by the use of large doses of nitre.

On the third day of February 1791, Mr. Rayner Cox of Harwich, in Essex, who, for several years before, had been subject to hæmoptoe, was
taken

taken about eight o'clock in the morning with a return of his disorder. He was bled, and took, during the day, what he had been used to take, an emulsion of sperma ceti with nitre. At night a draught, into which were put twenty and five drops of æther. I suppose vitriolic æther. He awoke about one o'clock Feb. 4th. and had a violent return of the bleeding. Mr. Hopkins, surgeon, &c. at Harwich, and Mr. Shearman, his late partner and successor in the practice of surgery and pharmacy, agreed, with his consent, to repeat venesection, and give him larger doses of nitre than are usually given. viz. ℥ij. for a dose, in one dose he took a drachm.

On

On that day, the 4th, I was sent for. Before I got to his house he had had several returns of the bleeding. The blood, which had been drawn from his arm, was a complete coagulum. There was no separation of serum from the crassamentum. It had an appearance like millet seeds sprinkled upon grumous blood. His pulse was quick, but not full. I prescribed for him the following medicines:

R. Cerus. acetat. gr. iij.

Alum. pulv. gr. v.

Opii. gr. j.

Conf. cynosb. q. s. f. bolus statim sumendus et post horas quinque repetendus

i

R.

R. Kali pp. ʒj.

Succ. limon. ʒij.

Aquæ distil. ʒvj.

Syr. limon. ʒfs.

Nitri pulv. ʒij. M. cap. coch. iv.
subinde.

At three o'clock in the afternoon he brought up about two tea cups full of blood, fresh and florid; and at ten the same evening as much more: At one o'clock in the morning on the 5th. day of February, at eight, and at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the same day, he brought up, each time, about 6 ounces of blood.

Things now put on a serious aspect. His urine was tinged with blood, which every hour grew redder. I
was

was much alarmed. The patient, however, during this trying scene, was perfectly calm in his mind. In this situation no time was to be lost. We agreed to try what large doses of nitre frequently given would do. He, accordingly, took a drachm every two hours in a cup of barley decoction. About that time Ruspini's styptic was extolled by some. Mr. Cox asked me if I thought it would interfere with the nitre. After having tasted it, I could not discover any thing likely to decompose the nitre therefore consented. He took a tea-spoonful one hour after every dose of the nitre, in a glassful of tincture of roses. He had not taken more than half an

ounce

ounce of the nitre before his urine became less tinged, and gradually grew paler till Feb. 6th. when it was quite lymphid. Dr. Hamilton of Ipswich, agreeable to the wish of his brother Charles Cox, Esq. was desired to meet me. He came, but so rapid was the progress of the remedy, that the bleeding was entirely stopped before he arrived. Here the reader will perhaps ask, How can you attribute the good effects in this case to the nitre, since he took other medicines? The following cases will, as well as the postscript at the end of this, I think, put the matter out of doubt.

The nitre happily never offended
his

his stomach, but it occasioned a disagreeable irritation in the prostate glands and sphincter muscles with a frequent discharge of urine. The doses therefore were, after the third day, lessened, and given at longer intervals.

He had had no return of bleeding when I saw him Feb. 9th. 1791.

Postscript.

Mr. Cox has lately favoured me with an account of himself. He says, that, now and then, upon taking cold, he has had a cough, which has been followed by some slight returns, but none alarming. He adds, that nitre, with a cool regimen, soon set all things right.

Mr.

MR. POLLEY'S CASE.

On the 9th. day of Jan. 1792, I was sent for to Mr. Robert Polley of London, who was then on a visit to a relation of his at Edwardstone, by Boxford in Suffolk. He appeared to be about the age of twenty-four years. He had, from a breach in his lungs, been often troubled with hæmoptoe; for which he had put himself under the care of an eminent physician in London, who ordered for him small doses of nitre joined with pulv. e tragac. comp. and a mixture composed of tincture of roses &c.

When I saw him he had brought up, at the distance of four hours each time,

time, for the greatest part of the preceding day and night, about five or six ounces of fresh arterial blood, and was reduced so low that he looked like a person in the last stage of a pulmonary consumption. He had a harraffing cough, his pulse was very quick and thready : what he expectorated was not purulent, but he brought up a great many globular substances like tubercles, about the size of peas, which seemed to be composed of gritty particles, like sand, cemented with mucus so fetid that the patient himself could hardly bear the smell of them. I never met with any thing expectorated so offensive. I ordered for him as follows:

R.

R. Nitri purificati ʒj.

Sacch. alb. ʒfs.

Coccinel. pulv. gr. ij. M. f. pulvis, statim, ex poculo, decoct. hord. sumendus, et quarta quaq. hora repet.

and, now and then, two ounces of a mixture of which tincture of roses was the principal ingredient.

He had not taken more than four of the powders before the blood thrown up, was, not only less in quantity but at longer intervals. His urine, which was before remarkably high coloured, became gradually clearer, and, at length, returned to its natural state. I saw him on the 10th. when his bleeding was stopped. But
from

from the colour of a stool he had had, it was evident he had swallowed a considerable quantity of blood, which was now grown very black and offensive. I therefore prescribed the following draught:

R. Salis Rupel. mannæ āā. ʒfs. coq.
 in aq. puræ q. s. col. ʒifs. add.
 tinct. fennæ. fyr. ros. āā. ʒj. f.
 H. statim, cum regimine, su-
 mendus.

This had the desired effect; his bowels were cleansed and his fæces became of a natural colour. I therefore desired him to go on with the powders, repeating them every four hours. He did so, till he had taken regularly, upwards of forty. They

K

never

never once offended his stomach. As he had no return of bleeding, I desired him to omit the powders and take, in lieu of them, the following mixture:

R. Decoct. cort. Peru.

Infus. ros. āā. ℥iij.

Tinct. cort. Peru. ℥j.

Acidi vitri, dilut. g^{tt}. xl. M. cap.
coch. iv. bis terve in dies.

Having made some stay in the country he returned to London. I did not hear that he had any recurrence of the hæmorrhage. But that, three or four years afterwards, he died of a phthisis pulmonalis. The reader will see, from the small quantity of the cochineal in the powder, that

that it was an ingredient, merely to disguise the medicine. And here, by the by, I would recommend it to practitioners, by colouring, not injurious, so to alter the appearance of some medicines, as that the sick may not know what he takes. I have ever seen that patients in general expect more from a medicine the composition of which they are ignorant of, than from one they are acquainted with. I remember a lady many years ago, who was troubled with a violent heartburn, she sent for a physician, who prescribed for her a draught similar to the following:

R.

R. Cretæ pp. ʒj.

Aq. cinnam. simp. ʒj. f. haust.
 semel bisve in die, cardialgiâ
 urgentâ, sumendus.

This corrected the acidity of the gastric fluid, and was a great favourite for several years; but, at length, she had occasion to go to London, and desired her apothecary, who had prudently kept the composition a secret, to send her the Doctor's prescription; he did so. In London she got it translated into english, and, behold, what was the consequence? she took no more "chalk draughts!"

But there are other patients, many of the clergy for instance, and other gentlemen of liberal education, who
 have

have attended anatomical and chemical lectures, and perhaps acquired a knowledge of the theory of physics. These are not to be put off with an ipse dixit. They have a right to know the physician's opinion of the disorder—the intention of cure, and by what means it is to be brought about.

I was some years past sent for to the Right Honourable Richard Rigby of Mistle Hall in Essex. He had had a fit of the gout, but his chief complaints were, when I saw him, great irritation of the nervous system, violent rheumatic pains in one shoulder, and arm, and, besides these, he had the shingles. He told me that
when

when he was well he had been in the habit of taking Dr. James's antimonial powder, and analeptic pills. That they, when he got warm in bed, produced a gentle perspiration which continued till morning; that when he got up, the check upon the surface occasioned a determination to his bowels, and that then he had an ample stool, and was comfortable for the whole day. But, that now, he had no perspiration, nor evacuation from his bowels unless he took rhubarb. "Now sir, what do you mean
 "to give me, for, you must know, I
 "take no medicine without being
 "acquainted with the composition,
 "and what I am to expect from it."

I told him I thought James's powder was the best remedy he could take, assisted by suitable medicines, for that James's powders, by proper additions might be made to act, either upon the skin, stomach, or bowels. "This sir," said he, "is very well in theory. "But do you think you can bring it "to practice?" I told him I thought I could. "Then sir, prescribe as soon "as you please." I told him he would have nothing to take till bed time. I knew his James's powders were to be depended on, therefore desired his valet de chambre, who had the care of them, to give me a couple, one of which I put into a draught, composed of camphor julep
and

and tincture of opium, which he took in bed; and I desired him to take now and then a cupful of warm barley decoction; and, if he had no sweat in four hours to send his servant to me. The servant came and I went to his master. I asked him if he had had any perspiration. He said no, but that he was not quite so restless as he had been, his skin, though not moist, was lax. I repeated the draught, and desired, should it not produce the effect expected, that I might be called at the end of the next four hours. I went to bed and slept till eight o'clock the next morning. I then visited and found him in a very benign sweat, and desired him not to check it suddenly,

denly, but, as he wished to get up, that his covering might be removed by degrees. On getting up he went to his water closet, and at breakfast said, he thought he had got into his usual tract again. He repeated the powders and draughts the night following, with the same effect, and then left them off, saying he had no more occasion for them, which proved true.

And now having made a digression from the cases of hæmorrhagy, I hope the reader will allow me to offer him some observations relative to the treatment of the sick, which, I think, may be of use both to the doctor and and patient.

I remember to have seen a publication, by a physician of good abilities too, but who, I have since heard, was not upon friendly terms with the apothecaries, in which, with no small degree of warmth, he inveighs against saline draughts, juleps, sperma ceti mixtures, ptisans, &c. &c. What good, says he, can a saline draught do, though taken every four hours? I agree with this gentleman, that these are not medicines of such powers as to produce any great effect upon the body independent of the mind. But every practitioner of experience, well knows what an influence the mind has upon the body. Numberless facts might be given where impressions

sions of the mind (especially in cases of scurvy) have proved favourable, or fatal. Let one instance suffice.

On the 30th. of Jan, 1744, Mr. Ives informs us, "that he had near seventy
 " persons ill of the scurvy in the
 " Mediterranean. Yet the joy of
 " meeting the enemy's fleet, and beat-
 " ing them, had such an effect, that,
 " on the 11th. of Feb. following,
 " when the engagement happened,
 " there were not more than five men
 " absent from their fighting quarters:"

And this Dr. Lind justly attributes to the influence of the mind upon the body; for he adds, that, during eleven days, the sick had no more than five servings of broth.

I have been sent for to many patients at particular times when I should have been satisfied in doing nothing. But would this satisfy the patient? No. His mind was to be made easy, till nature or the disorder pointed out what was to be done. How difficult is it, often, to distinguish between cause and effect; how cautious, therefore, ought the prescriber to be, lest by violent medicines, rashly given, he destroy the patient before the disease. I have been told that the celebrated Dr. Goldsmith, by taking too large doses of James's powders, at an improper time in his fever, fell a victim to his temerity.

Mr.

Mr. Kettle, an innkeeper of Hadleigh, aged fifty and five years, was attacked in October 1797 with violent vomitings of blood; which was of a very dark colour, and of a grumous quality. After due allowance for the contents of the stomach, which were usually mixed with the blood thus evacuated, he brought up for three days successively not less than two pints and one half, or three pints of blood per day; preceded by a sense of great weight, sickness and anxiety. His pulse was quick, small, and irregular, his skin hot; thirst considerable; body rather costive, and his stools were loaded with black and fetid blood:

blood: urine in small quantity and turbid: little or no rest, great prostration of strength: legs and feet œdematous. Upon examination there appeared a very extensive, hard, and irregular tumour of the liver, and which pressing upon the vena portarum had, probably, given rise to this alarming hæmorrhage. As I had experienced the best effects from large doses of nitre in active hæmorrhagy, I now determined to try what the result would be, in passive hæmorrhagy, for, in this case there were no inflammatory symptoms. I accordingly prescribed for him as follows:

R.

R. Infusi rosæ rubræ ℥iss.

Nitri purificati,

Sp. nucis mosch. et

Syrupi caryoph. rub. āā. ʒj. f.

haustus quartis horis fumen-
dus.

No sickness or nausea ensued from the use of the nitre. In less than forty-eight hours the bleeding was nearly stopped. In the course of nineteen days he took seven ounces of nitre without the least inconvenience, on the contrary his appetite was considerably mended. His urine, during the use of the medicine, was secreted in larger quantity, and became lymphid, and the induration of the liver was considerably lessened.

In

In about three weeks, however, after he had left off the nitre, the anasarca of the lower extremities had increased, and symptoms of ascites appearing, I ordered small doses of the digitalis purpurea, which relieved him greatly. But a return of his dropsy in the year 1798 proved fatal.



SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE USE
OF NITRE IN HÆMORRHAGY, IN
A LETTER TO DR. GIBBONS, BY
NATHAN DRAKE, M. D.

Dear Sir,

I transmit you a case of
uterine hæmorrhage in which the free
use of nitre was attended with the
most beneficial effects. It will cor-
roborate in no small degree your
former experience on this subject,
and, together with the cases you have
accumulated, clearly prove, I think,
the great efficacy of this medicine in
large doses; though given long after
solution; and though unaccompanied
M with

with any immediate affection of the stomach.

Nitre when exhibited thus amply has hitherto been supposed to act on the circulation either from the cold produced during its solution in the stomach, or in consequence of nausea excited by its action on the muscular fibre of that organ. Mr. White of Manchester, in his Treatise on the Management of Pregnant and Lying-in Women, when speaking of the best method for suppressing violent floodings; observes, “large doses of nitre
 “ have often afforded instant relief;
 “ which I suppose is owing to the
 “ power which Dr. Alexander justly
 “ ascribes to it, of almost instantly
 “ retarding

“retarding the velocity of the circu-
 “lation, and of surprisngly diminish-
 “ing the number of pulsations: but
 “it should be given immediately af-
 “ter being dissolved, as the same gen-
 “tleman has observed, that it then
 “possesses that power in a greater
 “degree:”* and Dr. Darwin, in the
 second volume of his ZOONOMIA, has
 a passage of similar import: “Large
 “doses of nitre,” says he, “by pro-
 “ducing nausea debilitate and lessen
 “the energy of the circulation, and
 “and are thence useful in inflamma-
 “tory diseases. It must be added,
 “that if nitre be swallowed in pow-
 “der, or soon after it is dissolved, it
 “contributes

* Fifth Edition, page 141, 142.

“ contributes to lessen the circulation
 by the cold it generates, like ice-
 water, or the external application
 of cold air.”*

Now in the case before me, and in those which have fallen under your own experience, the nitre, with the exception of Mr. Polley, was given some hours after its solution, and produced in no instance sickness, or even nausea, yet the hæmorrhage was suppressed, and the heat and irritability diminished. It appears to me, indeed, difficult to conceive how the transient cold occasioned by the solution of a drachm or two of nitre in the stomach, and which is repeated
 only

* Page 760.

only every three or four hours, can sufficiently retard the motion of the heart to produce any powerful effect. Ice-water, indeed, which may be given every five or ten minutes, so as to induce permanent cold, promises, in cases of urgency, to be of great service, but it is obvious, that nitre cannot be thus repeated without danger of immediate rejection.

As to the effects of nausea arising from nitre in hæmorrhagy, nothing can place its inutility in a more striking point of view than the cases of Mr. and Mrs. Kettle; both laboured under the same complaint, and from similar causes; the former took, in nineteen days, seven ounces of nitre,

a drachm at a dose, without any nausea, and with every good effect; the latter, to whom I was called in April 1798, and whose evacuation of blood from the stomach was, as nearly as possible, both in quantity and quality, such as her husband's, experienced so much nausea and sickness from the nitre that I was obliged altogether to omit it, yet during these effects the hæmorrhage, so far from diminishing, encreased to a most alarming degree. It was however at length put a stop to by bleeding in the arm, and the liberal and long continued use of the *tinctura ferri muriati*.

The power which Dr. Alexander has ascribed to nitre, of *instantly* retarding

tarding the velocity of the circulation, and of *surprisingly* diminishing the number of pulsations, I have never experienced. Though to Mr. Kettle and to Mrs. Bradstreet large and repeated doses were given, and attention was paid to the state of the pulse, both immediately after it was taken, and when some hours had elapsed, no sudden change was perceptible, though in both the pulse *gradually* became slower and softer. Mrs. Kettle's pulse, which was quick and hard, underwent no alteration during the nausea and sickness consequent on taking the nitre. It should be observed, however, that where large doses of nitre disagree with the stomach,

stomach, they are in general, rapidly ejected by vomiting, the action of which accelerates the pulse, and the material once evacuated no nausea continues, a circumstance which, if nausea be the effect intended, should lead us to employ a medicine whose powers are more durable, the digitalis for instance, in the use of which though vomiting may supervene nausea for the most part continues.

I am inclined to think that in suppressing hæmorrhagy, whether active or passive, nitre acts merely as a tonic, powerfully though *gradually* diminishing at the same time heat, irritability and arterial action. That these are the effects of the nitrous acid,
when

when given with a view to remove debility, late experience has amply proved, and may we not attribute the salutary operation of the salt under consideration entirely to this active principle though in union with fixed vegetable alkali?

Believe me, dear Sir,

With great esteem,

Yours most sincerely,

Hadleigh, Suffolk, Nathan Drake.

May, 1799.

November 10, 1797.

Mrs. Bradstreet aged 42, has for these last three or four days laboured under violent uterine hæmorrhagy; she complains of considerable pain in her back and loins; the blood flows so profusely as to indicate danger; debility very great; body regular; thirst urgent; tongue white and dry; extremities cold and rather œdematous.

She has been subject to repeated attacks of this complaint for more than two years, which have necessarily much injured her constitution. Having taken, since the present return, some powerful astringents without abating the discharge, my opinion
was

was requested, and on finding the irritability of the system greatly increased, and her pulse near 120 small but hard, I ordered her the following draught:

R. Infusi rosæ rubræ ℥iss.

Tincturæ cinnamoni et

Syrupi caryophilli rubri āā. ʒj.

Nitri purificati ʒj. fiat haustus
quartis horis sumendus.

Twelve were taken in four days; they agreed perfectly well with her stomach, and on the day after their commencement the hæmorrhage began to subside, and by the fifteenth was compleatly removed.

To prevent a recurrence, however, the medicines beneath were thought
necessary,

necessary, and, together with a cool though nutritive diet, were persisted in for some time with every good effect.

R. Extracti cinchonæ ʒifs.

Pulveris rhæi ʒfs.

Zinci. vitriolati gr. viij. cum
syrupo fiant pilulæ xxiv. e
quibus sumat ij. ter in die
cum haustu seq.

R. Cinchonæ pulv. ʒj.

Corticis aurantii ʒfs.

Quassia ligni ʒj.

Aquæ ferventis ʒx. macera per
horas iv. et cola.

R. Infusi colati ʒifs.

Sp. etheris vitriol. g^{tt}. xx. fiat
haustus.

OBSERVATIONS

ON

The Abuse

OF

FLANNEL WAISTCOATS.



I CANNOT dismiss my pen till I have made a few observations on the pernicious use of flannel. Many medical men advise flannel waistcoats to be worn next the skin. In rheumatic complaints, lumbagos, and a number of other affections of the muscles and tendons they do well, provided the
waistcoats

waistcoats be not worn too long. What I have to reprobate is, the almost general use of them in pulmonary consumptions. The first direction to the patient is, "put on a flannel waistcoat under your shirt." And the waistcoat is commonly worn for a month or more, without being washed! Can any thing be so injurious? Sweat (like urine and thin feces) is an excrementitious fluid. Now what person afflicted with a diarrhœa could bear the idea of wearing a shirt for a month together. In the phthisis pulmonalis, where the patient has been all but dissolved by sweats, he has been *permitted* to wear

a flannel jacket for weeks! The morbid sweat has been secreted, excreted, and absorbed again, perhaps thirty times over! Can any thing to a thinking person appear so shockingly absurd? I was some time past in company with a very sensible gentleman, who told me he always wore flannel next his skin. I asked him why he did so. He answered, "by the advice of a gentleman of the faculty." How long do you wear a flannel waistcoat? "About a month." How long do you wear a shirt? "I have a clean shirt every day." Then why not a clean waistcoat every day? I have not had an opportunity of

of seeing him since, but, before I left him, he was so fully convinced of the error of his *obedience*, that, I have no doubt, a reform has taken place. I wish these hints may bring about a general reform.

